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Memorandum

To: Obstetrical Care Providers

From: Pejman Talebian, MA, MPH Deputy Program Manager for Policy and Planning, Immunization Program
Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager, Immunization Program

Date: March 2011

Subject: Reduced Availability of State-Supplied Flu Vaccine for Adults

The Massachusetts Department of Public (DPH) has begun planning for the 2011-2012 flu season. This planning is occurring in the face of a \$1.8 billion state deficit, the end of federal stimulus funding for vaccines, and increasing costs of vaccines. Because of this, it is likely that DPH will have to significantly decrease the amount of state-supplied flu vaccine for adults for the 2011-2012 flu season.

Currently, state-supplied flu vaccine is provided to all public and private obstetrical care providers for vaccination of pregnant women, and for adults seen at public sites, such as public clinics organized by local health department and visiting nurses associations, community health centers, public hospitals, etc. However, starting in the 2011-2012 flu season, private obstetrical care providers will no longer have access to state-supplied flu vaccines. Public provider sites, including OB providers at CHCs, will also have their vaccine allocations reduced significantly. All providers will be asked to prioritize state-supplied vaccines for uninsured high-risk clients, including pregnant women, in order to stretch as far as possible the remaining supplies of free vaccine.

Since 2008, the number of OB providers enrolled in the MDPH Immunization Program has increased by close to 50% and the number of doses of state-supplied vaccine

distributed to OB providers has increased four fold. We are greatly encouraged by the strides made by OB providers in Massachusetts in providing flu vaccine to their patients. Although we regret this difficult decision to cut back state-supplied vaccine availability, we hope that you will take advantage of health plan reimbursement, privately purchase flu vaccine for the 2011-2012 season, and bill your patients' health plans. To purchase seasonal influenza vaccine, contact your regular vaccine distributor or the manufacturers (below) or to locate a vaccine distributor, go to:

<http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats>

Please see the table below for a list of influenza vaccine products **expected** to be available for the 2011 – 2012 flu season, and the age indications for each (please note that this table does not include live, attenuated influenza vaccine and inactivated influenza vaccine in the 0.25 mL formulation, which are not licensed for pregnant women):

Trade Name	Manufacturer	Dose/ Presentation	Thimerosal Content (mcg Hg/0.5 mL dose)	Age Group
Fluzone® Inactivated	sanofi pasteur 800-822-2463 www.vaccineshoppe.com	0.5 mL prefilled syringe	0	≥ 3 yrs
		0.5 mL single-dose vial	0	≥ 3 yrs
		5.0 mL multidose vial	25	≥ 6 mos
Fluzone High-Dose		0.5 mL prefilled syringe	0	≥ 65 yrs
Fluvirin® Inactivated	Novartis 800-244-7668 www.novartisvaccinesdirect.com/Fluvirin/FluvirinAbout	5.0 mL multidose vial	25	≥ 4 yrs
		0.5 mL prefilled syringe	< 1.0	≥ 4 yrs
Fluarix®, Inactivated	GlaxoSmithKline 866-475-8222 www.gskvaccinesdirect.com/gsk/en/US/htdocs/products/index.htm	0.5 mL prefilled syringe	< 1.0	≥ 3 yrs
Flulaval®, Inactivated		5.0 mL multidose vial	25	≥ 18 yrs
Afluria®, Inactivated	CSL Biologics (Merck is distributor) 877-829-6372 www.merckvaccines.com/afluria	0.5 mL prefilled syringe	0	≥ 3 yrs
		5.0 mL multidose vial	24.5	≥ 6 mos

Providers should submit orders for privately purchased influenza vaccine as soon as possible. The earlier orders are submitted, the better your chances of obtaining doses early in the season.

If you have any questions regarding state-supplied vaccine availability please call the Vaccine Unit at 617-983-6828.

Annual influenza vaccination of pregnant women is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (The College), American Medical Association (AMA), American Nurses Association (ANA), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN), March of Dimes, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to CDC, by November 2010, 49% of pregnant women in the U.S. had received flu vaccine or definitely intended to be vaccinated. The most common place for pregnant women to receive flu vaccine was a doctor's office. To see the full report, *Influenza Vaccination Coverage Estimates among Pregnant Women – United States, November 2010*, go to www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/vaccination/DingInternetPanelSurveyPregnantWomen.pdf.

We appreciate all that you do to protect your patients from influenza.